

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-6, 11, 12, 23-28, 31-33, 43, 44, 47 and 48 were rejected and Claim 13 was objected to in the present Office action. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended; Claim 11 has been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced.

Claim Objections

Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended Claim 13 to be an independent claim incorporating the subject matter of the claims on which it depends, and therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to the title of the application as not being sufficiently descriptive. Without suggesting that any change to the title has relevance to the subject matter claimed, the Applicants have amended the title to describe an aspect of the specification which may be helpful in searching the application.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102 (b)

Claims 1-5, 11, 12, 23, 25-27, 43, 44, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Mashino et al. (US 5,886,759; "Mashino").

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, the hardened part has a longitudinal axis spaced a distance from a nearest edge of the optical sheet disposed parallel to the longitudinal axis, and comprises a projecting part.

The Examiner asserts that the hardened part comprises a projecting part [79]. *Arguendo*, the hardened part in Mashino is the sandwich on the left in Fig. 5, from the light guide 37 to the reflector sheet 70 and everything in-between. The hardened part as defined for the specific purposes of this traverse, comprises the tape 79, the tape 75

and the tape 2. None of these elements projects further in the horizontal plane than any of the others, the reference thus does not have the projecting part of the arrangement in Claim 11.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 22-25, 31-33, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Jang et al. (US 6,891,580; "Jang").

The Applicants respectfully submit that the newly added feature of Claim 1 is not found in the reference.

Claims 2-6, 12, 24-28, 31-33, and 43-44 and 47-48 are claims dependent on the now allowable claims, and are allowable, without more.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mashino in view of Jeong et al. (US 6,595,651, "Jeong"). Claims 6 and 28 are dependent claims and the claims are allowable as claims dependent on an allowable base claim.

Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims

Withdrawn Claims 7-10, 14-21, 29, 30, and 34-42 depend on now allowable claims which should be considered as generic to the withdrawn claims. The Applicants respectfully request that the withdrawn claims now be rejoined to the prosecution and allowed as well.

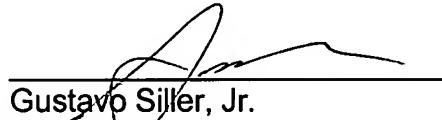
Conclusion

Claims 1-6, 12-13, 23-28, 31-33, 43-44, and 47-48 are pending.

For at least the reasons given above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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